



**CONGRESSMAN
BEN CARDIN**
WELCOME TO MARYLAND'S 3RD DISTRICT



Congressman Ben Cardin - Maryland's Third District

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Dear Friends,

I recently introduced legislation that would make the United States "energy independent" in 10 years. In the spirit of the 1961 Apollo program that put a man on the moon in less than a decade, my bill provides the commitment and resources necessary to make us energy self-sufficient by 2016.

Today, the United States imports 35% of its energy and 65% of its oil, making our nation vulnerable to price spikes in the wake of international events. According to a recent report, Americans are now paying almost 54% more for their energy needs -- including gasoline, home heating and electricity -- than they were five years ago. In 2001, the average American household paid \$3,323 a year for energy costs; in 2006, those costs soared to \$5,131 a year.

My bill - *the American Energy Independence Act*, HR 5927 - would increase fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles, including SUVs and light trucks, encourage the development and use of renewable forms of energy, improve conservation efforts and dramatically increase funding for energy research and development.

There is no question that we have the ability to become energy independent - all we need is the will to do it.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress



CARDIN CONGRATULATES HIS 2006 SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES DURING A VISIT TO CAPITOL HILL

Rep. Cardin welcomes his nine appointees to four of the U.S. service academies for the Class of 2010 to the U.S. Capitol. "Every year it is a privilege to nominate some of the brightest and most dedicated students in the Third Congressional District to one of the academies -- the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. These young Americans get a top-notch, free education and a chance to serve our nation."

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Previous Survey Question Results

Do you support Administration efforts to hire private debt collection agencies to collect taxes from Americans instead of using the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)?

Answer	Percent
Yes	20%
No	79%

New Survey Question

Would you consider purchasing a hybrid vehicle, which gets better gas mileage, when you purchase your next car?

Yes
No

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Please feel free to send this newsletter to others who may be interested in this issue.
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